



Nursery/Tree Improvement Section

There were 3.7 million tree seedlings sold in 2008, generating more than \$1.2 million in revenue and reforesting approximately 5,000 acres. In addition, more than 60,000 plants were provided for state-wide Arbor Day events, as well as wildflowers for the Indiana

Department of Transportation and other state properties and agencies. While federal funding for tree planting has declined and nursery expenses increased, the above income allowed for the recovery of 92% of operating costs. The scale back of nursery stock will allow for stock availability to become more in line with demand.

Improvements to the nursery facilities last year included irrigation capability for the seed orchards, a few miles of nursery roads were chip and sealed, harvested and sold grain, raised from cover crops, to boost revenue, continued increasing seed orchard acreage, and erected a hoop structure for straw bale storage used for winter seedbed protection. Again, more than 1 million seeds were collected from existing seed orchards for use in nursery production, and “select” seedling stock of black walnut, butternut, white oak and red oak were again made available to the public. Five new seedling packets were made available to customers with specific planting needs.

Scale-back of Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery continues, with all production now moved to Vallonia. Seedbeds at Jasper-Pulaski will remain available for future production if demand warrants. Jasper-Pulaski will now be used as a N. Indiana distribution center for tree order shipments and a seed buying station for the Nursery’s statewide seedbuy program.

“President Lincoln” Lilacs for Indiana elementary schools are being prepared for spring shipment to coincide with the 200 birthday celebration of President Lincoln.